

A FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF *HERMATOBATES BREDINI*
HERRING AND A NEW RECORD FOR CUBA
(HEMIPTERA: HERMATOBATIDAE)

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Abstract.—*Hermatobates bredini* Herring is recorded for the first time from Cuba. An erroneous description of the caudal process of the metasternum is corrected.

The genus *Hermatobates* occupies an uncertain position in the heteropteran hierarchy. Various authors have considered it to be either a gerrid or a separate family. Matsuda (1960) revised the higher rank taxa of the Gerridae and excluded Hermatobatinae, leaving it *incertae sedis*. Andersen and Polhemus (1976) treated the Hermatobatidae as a family in their work on marine water striders, and we follow this interpretation pending a more complete analysis to be published later by the first author and others.

In 1965 *Hermatobates bredini* Herring was described from a unique male from Dominica, the only record for the genus in the Atlantic Ocean system. Herring figured the ventral features of *bredini* while the specimen was immersed in alcohol and did not notice the peculiar folded caudal extension of the metasternum. An amended description of this structure follows.

Hermatobates bredini Herring

Hermatobates bredini Herring 1965. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 117:124. Type, male, Dominica, British West Indies (USNM Type No. 66875).

Apterous male.—Caudal margin of metasternum sharply elevated into a ridge, prolonged caudad in a sinuate flap-like process embracing the distal part of abdominal segment 9 and terminating as a ventrally directed lamina (Fig. 1).

Specimens examined.—Holotype, ♂ (data given above); 1 ♂ CUBA, Corrientes Bay, IV-9-1937, P. Bartsch, in Polhemus collection.

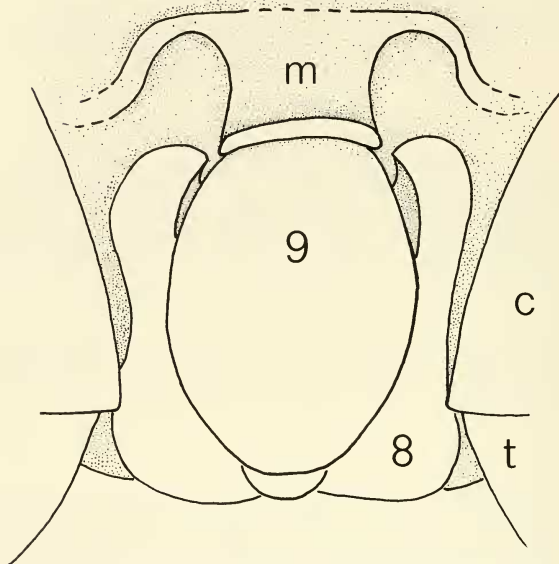


Fig. 1. *Hermatobates bredini*. Ventral view of distal part of abdomen: c, posterior coxae; m, metasternum; t, posterior trochanter; 8, tergite 8; 9, tergite 9.

Discussion.—This is the second record of *bredini* for the Caribbean region, and as Dominica and Cuba are widely separated, it is likely that *bredini* occurs along other West Indian islands. The female is still unknown, and its discovery is much to be desired.

LITERATURE CITED

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